

## Message Text

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E.O. 11562: NA

TAGS: GATT AORG OCON

SUBJECTT: GATT STAFF COMPLAINTS ON SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

REF (A) GENEVA 416: B) STATE 16248

1. GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG ADDRESSED CONTACT GROUP JANUARY 27 AS ANTICIPATED IN REFTEL (A). LONG SAID IT NOW "INDESPENSABLE" REMEDY DETERIORATION WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, THAT BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED ISSUE TWICE PRIOR TO CONTACT GROUP. LONG SAID "SITATION HAS BECOME SIMPLY REDICULOUS, AND AS AN ADMINISTRATOR THIS IS WHAT I MUST SAY TO YOU". SAID U. N. COMMON SYSTEM IS INADEQUATE, IS NOW A "MYTH", HAVING BEEN SET UP LONG AGO WITHOUT THOUGHT OF LONG-TERM MONETARY INSTABILITY AFFECTING EMPLOYEES IN SUCH DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AS NEW YORK, ROME, GENEVA, NAIROBI. LONG SAID U.N. COMMON SYSTEM SHOLD BE FLEXIBLE IN PRACTICE; IT SHOLD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO ADJUST TO UNANTICIPATED PROBLEMS SUCH AS MAJOR CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATES. THIS SHOLD BE POSSIBLE "WITHIN FENERAL FRAMEWORK OF WHAT IS LEFT OF COMMON SYSTEM".

2. IN ALLUSION TO RUMORED GATT STAFF WORK SLOWDOWN, LONG SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO FEAR THAT SECRETARIAT WILL NOT CARRY OUT ITS MTN RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT STAFF MUST ASK "HOW MUCH LESS WILL I GET AT THE END OF THE MONTH? NEXT MONTH?" LONG SAID HE NOT

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THINKING OF BAD WILL BUT RATHER THAN STAFF'S MIND WILL BE ELSEWHERE;

THEY NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE MAXIMUM OUTPUT. LONG INTENDS TO TELL FULL BUDGET COMMITTEE AND GATT COUNCIL ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THINGS.

3. U.S. MADE LOW-KEY APPEAL FOR STAFF TO VIEW GENEVA-WIDE FORA AS BEST PLACE FOR PURSUING CASE; OTHERWISE US. LIMITED COMMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EXCHANGE INSTABILITY WAS NOT MAJOR PHENOMENON WHEN U.N. COMMON SYSTEM WAS SET UP. FRG AND FRANCE, HOWEVER, CONTINUED POSTURE OF DEBATING WITH STAFF REPS. JAPAN, SWITZERLAND, BRAZIL MADE FEW COMMENTS. CHAIRMAN (CLARK) SAID HE HOPED CPS WOULD FIND EARLY SOLUTION WHEN MATTER IS REFERRED TO COUNCIL.

4. BUDGET COMMITTEE WILL MEET TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 TO RECEIVE REPORT TO CONTACT GROUP (SEE RETEL A). MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY RETEL (B), BUT WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON ACCEPTABILITY OF D.G. LONG'S CONCEPT OF "TECHNICAL" ADJUSTMENT FOR EXCHANGE RATE LOSSES WOULD BE HELPFUL (I.E., LOSSES CAUSED BY EXTRACTING THE SAME IMAGINARY INCOME TAX OUT OF EXCHANGE-RATE ADJUSTMENTS AS ARE DEDUCTED FROM INCREASES CAUSED BY INFLATION). DALE

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